

Meeting	Decision Session - Executive Member for Finance and Performance
Date	27 October 2020
Present	Councillors Ayre (Executive Member for Finance and Performance) and Craghill (Executive Member for Housing and Safer Neighbourhoods) for agenda item 4 Citizen's Advice York Service Level Agreement Renewal

27. Declarations of Interest

The Executive Members confirmed that he had no personal interests not included on the Register of Interests, nor any prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interests, to declare in the business on the agenda.

28. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the Decision Session held on 9 March 2020 and 7 October 2020 be approved, to be signed by the Executive Member at a later date.

29. Public Participation

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak at the session under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

30. Extension of Hardship Fund Support

This item was considered in consultation with Cllr Craghill (Executive Member for Housing and Safer Neighbourhoods).

The Executive Members considered a report that provided them with an update on the current position of the Government funded Covid-19 Hardship Fund and broader welfare support through the £1.2m funding provided by the council. The paper recommended the continuation of the Hardship scheme and broader welfare support including discretionary

school meals, internet access, and community hub support including food parcels through council funding to 31 March 2021.

The Assistant Director Customer and Digital Services outlined the report and provided an update on the funds made available from the government for the hardship scheme now been exhausted. The Executive Member for Housing and Safer Neighbourhoods welcomed all the proposals for extending the financial support. She expressed concern regarding the council running out of Government funding and the need for council support likely increasing over the winter months. The Executive Member for Finance and Performance added that whilst government funding was helpful it did not cover all costs. He thanked staff for their continued support.

It was:

Resolved: That;

- i. The financial support provided to residents to date be noted.
- ii. Approval be given to the extension of the hardship scheme with council funding to 31 March 2021
- iii. Approval be given to the continuation of the community based welfare support and discretionary free school meals as set out at Table 1.

Reason: To provide financial support to the councils most financially vulnerable residents during the covid-19 pandemic.

31. Update in relation to the impact of Covid 19 on the City of York Council's Commercial Property Portfolio

The Executive Member considered a report that set out the performance of the council's Commercial Portfolio in 2020 highlighting the impact of COVID-19. The report also detailed the measures taken to support tenants and identified the resulting financial position and the level of vacancies in the estate. The report included an update on the situation on Spark:York which was reported to the Executive Member, prior to the COVID-19 outbreak in the UK, on 14 February 2020.

The Assistant Director for Regeneration and Asset Management noted the impact of COVID-19 on the hospitality sector and added that Spark:York had played an important role over the summer and had asked for amended terms of its lease.

The Executive Member welcomed the recommendations and acknowledged the contribution of Soark:York for business start-ups and how it had added to the vibrancy of the city centre over the summer period. He noted that they had also complied with planning conditions.

He then:

Resolved: That;

- i. the position and the support that the City Council has provided to the businesses within its commercial property portfolio in relation to the COVID-19 situation be noted;
- ii. the impact of COVID-19 situation on the previously agreed lease to Spark:York be noted and that agreement be given to the removal of the obligation upon Spark:York to provide a deposit/bond payment and guarantee from one of its directors as part of the pre requisites originally required for the grant of a further lease.

Reason: To note the current impact of Covid-19 on the City Council's commercial property following the grant of rent deferments, as set out in the report and to provide Spark York with further support and financial viability for their short term use of 17-21 Piccadilly.

Cllr N Ayre, Chair

[The meeting started at 4.00 pm and finished at 4.20 pm].